



City Council Worksession

Meeting Minutes – Planning Conference Room – 1st Floor

April 25, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

5:00 PM

Mayor Stephen D. Murray III

Members of Council in attendance - Neil Lipsitz, Mike McFee, Mitch Mitchell, Josh Scallate and Mayor Murray.

II. PRESENTATIONS

A. Staff presentation of recommended FY-2024 Budget.

Scott Marshall, City Manager, began by stating that the recommended budget is \$30,526,792.00. This is similar to the FY-2023 Budget. The General Fund makes up the majority of the Revenue Sources at 77 percent. Under the Projected Expenses, Personnel and Operating costs make up the majority at 89 percent. The millage rate is expected to drop from 78.2 mills (\$108,784.00 per mill) to 73.9 mills (\$128,731.00 per mill). He stated that there is no new debt.

The public hearing and first reading on the Budget Ordinance will be held on May 23, 2023. The second and final reading will be held on June 13, 2023.

Alan Eisenman, Finance Director, then went over the breakdown of each fund showing expenditures and revenues related to each category.

You can visit the City's Financial Transparency Portal by using this link:

<https://www.cityofbeaufort.org/161/Financial-Transparency>

III. DISCUSSIONS

A. Fire Department - Ladder Truck Purchase - Discussion of a Budget Amendment for the purpose of reallocating funds for a down payment.

Tim Ogden, Fire Chief, stated that the Ladder truck is due for replacement in 2026. He mentioned that the build times range anywhere from 28 to 48 months. Two quotes have been received by Spartan Fire Apparatus for a 107' PUC Aerial Ladder. The first quote is for \$1,615,062.00, with an estimated delivery time of 28 months. There are only so many slots available per year for a truck to be manufactured. The second quote pushed back the delivery significantly because of new EPA Emission standards that will go into effect in 2027.

In order to get delivery in a timely manner, a \$500,000.00 down payment needs to be made now to get us within the window of a delivery date in 2026. A discount of \$37,865.00 would also be credited for making this down payment. It is recommended that 63 percent of the down payment be paid from the City Fire Impact Fee Fund (\$315,000.00) and the other 37 percent to

be paid by the Town of Port Royal (\$185,000.00). The City of Beaufort and Town of Port Royal have a contractual agreement for fire service.

Consensus from Council is to move forward.

- B. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Council to execute an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Stormwater Infrastructure Program Subrecipient Agreement between the City of Beaufort and the South Carolina Office of Resilience to fund a Stormwater Infrastructure Improvement Project that will mitigate the impact of future disasters.

Carrie Gorsuch, Infrastructure Project Support Coordinator, said that in November 2022, the City had applied for an ARPA - Funded Stormwater Infrastructure Program (ASIP) Project Grant for projects in the Charles/Craven Street and the Port Republic/Carteret Street Drainage Improvements Areas in the amount of \$7,537,351.00 through the South Carolina Office of Resiliency (SCOR).

On April 12, 2023, the City received notification that the award was granted in the amount of \$7,500,000.00. She was contacted by SCOR staff, and they confirmed this will be corrected to reflect the full amount.

Staff will be recommending approval of the resolution accepting the award in an upcoming Regular Council Meeting.

Ms. Gorsuch announced that the City just received notice of a 9.4-million-dollar Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) grant. This will be used for the downtown drainage projects along King Street.

James White, 521 New Street addressed Council.

Council is supportive of this moving forward.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Lipsitz made a motion to go into Executive Session and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee.

- A. Pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, Section (70) (a) (2) of the South Carolina Code of Law: Discussion regarding the proposed sale or purchase of property.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee, made a motion to recess the Executive Session and resume once the Regular Council Meeting has concluded. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.

All were in favor, motion carried.

V. ADJOURN

10:53 PM

Disclaimer: This document is a summary. All City Council Worksessions and Regular Meetings are recorded. Live stream can be found on the City's website at www.cityofbeaufort.org (Agenda section). Any questions, please contact the City Clerk, Traci Guldner at 843-525-7024 or by email at tguldner@cityofbeaufort.org.